

WAYNE, PA—On April 16, 2009, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) addressed the student body of more than 200 Cadets of the Valley Forge Military College at their Annual Senior Leadership Forum. The Senior Leadership Forum was initiated to expose college Cadets to senior decision makers from industry, military, political, and academic careers. The Congressman was introduced by Dr. Michael Krause, Dean of the College & Director of Military Affairs, on the theme of “Decision Making in Times of Crisis.”

“Decision making comes from principles,” said Congressman Sestak. “In the Naval Academy, I learned that the principles that define you are the ones you stand up for, the ones you hold fast to when no one is looking. Then comes training. At sea we learned to make instantaneous decisions to save a ship or avoid a collision—decisions that are based on years of training, years of making smaller decisions and sticking by them. Once you have those key components—principles that you can depend on and the expertise that comes from study and training—then you have the tools of leadership. If you have the principles that form the template for your experiences and training, you can react at a moment’s notice—and you can be capable and comfortable making those tough decisions.”

Valley Forge Military College is a private, co-educational, two-year college enrolling approximately 220 cadets in its first- and second-year programs. Students benefit from a complete military school education that encompasses a strong academic program, leadership opportunities, character development, athletic competition and physical fitness, extracurricular activities and social interaction with a diverse group of peers.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of “Deep Blue,” the Navy’s anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the “Global War on Terrorism.” He served as President Clinton’s Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the U.S. Congress.*

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